

Understanding the Differences

The purpose of this activity is to accurately reflect the views of the scientists who represent the differing viewpoints shown below. This is in no way intended to claim that any perspective is right or wrong. These are some of the prevailing theories that explain the diversity of life on earth, but by no means are exhaustive. If you wish to research a differing belief than one represented here, you are encouraged to do so. The generalizations listed in each viewpoint synopsis are meant to be exactly that, and do not represent every possible variation. You are encouraged to supplement or use completely different sources.

Creationism (Generally)

Creationists believe that God or a Supreme Being made the Universe. They believe that since mankind was created by God, mankind has a special purpose in the Universe that has been given to him by God. Creationists believe that evolution is false, and that natural selection can explain the variety among species (breeds of dogs, types of finches) but that it is not possible for one species to evolve into a different species. There are many different types of Creationism that vary based on religion, culture, and scientific perspective, so to investigate specific scientific claims about Creationism, it is recommended that you investigate a more specific type of Creationism that represents your viewpoint.

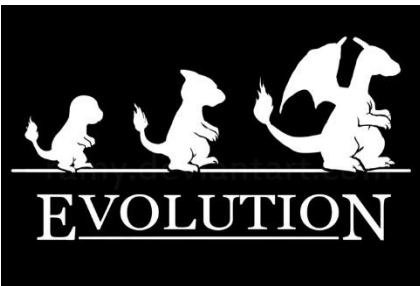


Potential Resources:

http://www.godandscience.org/evolution/intelligent_design_religion_science.html
http://www.godandscience.org/apologetics/hawking_no_gods_necessary.html
http://www.personal.psu.edu/faculty/j/m/jmc6/second_law.html
<http://evolutionfacts.com/Evolution-handbook/E-H-10a.htm>
<https://goo.gl/1UyUSn>

Evolution

Evolutionists typically believe that the Universe and variety of life within it developed without the intervention of God or a Supreme Being. There are some theistic evolutionists that believe that evolution is the way that God created the Universe, and a small portion of those believe that God even directed the process of evolution. Most evolutionists scientifically believe that life on earth developed without any direction or intervention from God. They believe that natural selection and genetic mutation over very long periods of time explain how species are able to evolve into different species. Evolutionists typically believe that the earth is at least 4.6 billion years old.



Potential Resources:

http://evolution.berkeley.edu/evolibrary/news/170201_extinctrelatives
<https://goo.gl/qua7YI>
<http://humanorigins.si.edu/evidence/dating>
<http://www.livescience.com/474-controversy-evolution-works.html>
http://anthro.palomar.edu/evolve/evolve_3.htm

Islamic Creationism

The articles below tend to agree that most Muslims are Creationists, although one article is written from the perspective of a Muslim who seems to support evolution. That same author admits that a very small number (somewhere between 10-25%) of Muslims support an evolutionary perspective. If you desire to research more about Islamic Creationism, it is recommended that you determine which framework (old vs. young earth) and then investigate those scientific arguments. These articles are not as easy to find online, and you may have better luck finding books in a library or online that cover this topic from a scientific perspective. The articles below can be used for a philosophical or religious defense, but do not contain much in the way of scientific investigation. It is also worth noting that some Muslims will reject Western science in general, as they believe that the Western way of life (including science) is corrupt and undermines their religious beliefs.

Potential Resources:

<https://goo.gl/NYPXA8>

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/11/03/science/03islam.html>

<https://goo.gl/3chlZy>

<http://www.ldolphin.org/islamcreat.html>



Old Earth Christian Creationism

Old earth creationists believe everything outlined in the Creationist synopsis above. The biggest difference between Old and Young Earth Creationists is the way in which they perceive modern dating techniques. Old Earth scientists tend to accept the scientific model of the geological timescale and radioactive dating, but still believe that God created the world and each individual species of animal, normally believing that creation spanned a time period of millions of years. There are various versions of Old Earth Creationism, notably Progressive Creationism and Day-Age Creationism, but typically the differences between these versions have to do with religious interpretation, not scientific evidence.

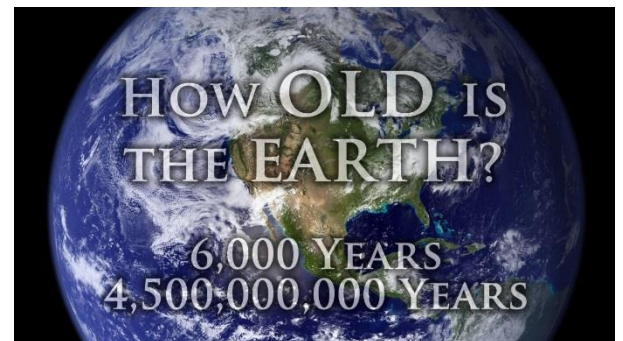
Potential Resources:

<http://oldearth.org/floating.htm>

<http://oldearth.org/dating.htm>

<http://www.godandscience.org/apologetics/model.html>

http://www.kjvbible.org/ancient_earth.html



Young Earth Christian Creationism

Young Earth Creationists believe that God created the earth in 6 literal days, and based on their interpretation of the Bible, they believe that the earth is only between 6,000 and 10,000 years old. They believe that seeming discrepancies among the fossil records are explained by a global flood, described as “Noah’s Flood.” They believe there is scientific evidence that backs up their dating procedures, and that the modern scientific dating techniques are incorrect and flawed.

Potential Resources:

<http://www.icr.org/article/5501>

<https://answersingenesis.org/astronomy/age-of-the-universe/evidence-for-a-young-world/>

<http://creation.com/flood-geological-maps>

<https://answersingenesis.org/geology/grand-canyon-facts/grand-canyon/>

<https://www.probe.org/the-grand-canyon-and-the-age-of-the-earth/>